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Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 USIE-00
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00
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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:RAMONKS:BSHALLMAN:EEB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:ALZUCCA
OES/OFA/FA:KCLARK-BOURNE
EUR/RPE-W.SALISBURY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, EEC

SUBJECT: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

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REF: (A) EC BRU 4707, (B) EC BRU 4806, (C) EC BRU 5032

1. DEPT. SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT EC RESOLUTION (REFTEL A) PROVIDING FOR ONLY 65 LICENSES FOR US SHRIMP VESSELS WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTION ON U.S. FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA WITHOUT ANY SCIENTIFIC OR CONSERVATION BASIS FOR DOING SO. SUCH A REGIME WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONTRARY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT US FISHING COULD CONTINUE DURING 1977 AT SAME RATE AS IN 1975. DEPT. REQUESTS MISSION TO REGISTER USG OBJECTION TO THIS ACTION, DRAWING ON ARGUMENTS ALREADY MADE BY MISSION AS REPORTED REFTEL (B) AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL POINTS OUTLINED BELOW:

2. ARTICLE XIV OF US-EC GIFA STATES IN ESSENCE THAT EC IS WILLING TO GRANT U.S. VESSELS ACCESS TO ITS FISHERY ZONE ON TERMS NOT MORE RESTRICTIVE THEN THOSE APPLYING TO FOREIGN FISHING. US TERMS FOR FOREIGN FISHING PROVIDE THAT THE LEVEL OF FISHING MUST BE

DETERMINED IN LIGHT OF THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE. SHOULD THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE INDICATE THAT A LIMITATION ON FOREIGN FISHING IS NECESSARY, IT WOULD THEN BE POSSIBLE UNDER U.S. LAW TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN VESSELS IN THE U.S. ZONE. DEPT'S CONCERN WITH EC REGULATION IS NOT PRINCIPLE OF VESSEL LIMITATION BUT RATHER ABSENCE OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE WHICH INDICATES THAT SUCH LIMITATION IS NECESSARY.

3. IN RECENT YEARS U.S. SHRIMP VESSELS FISHING IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GUIANA-BRAZIL FISHERY HAVE HAD CATCHES OF ABOUT 30 METRIC TONS PER YEAR AND NOT 60 TONS AS MENTIONED BY EC OFFICIALS. THUS EVEN UNDER FORMULA OUTLINED PARA 3 REFTEL (B), 130 AND NOT 65 VESSELS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO TAKE 1,300M TONS. WE ALSO SEE NO BASIS FOR THE FIGURE OF 3,000 METRIC TONS MENTIONED AS TOTAL U.S. ANNUAL CATCH. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, IN 1975 THE U.S. CATCH IN THAT FISHERY WAS 7,500,000 LBS OR ABOUT 3,400 METRIC TONS. 1975 WAS A RATHER LOW YEAR AND IN RECENT PREVIOUS YEARS THE U.S. CATCH IN THE FISHERY HAVE GREATLY EXCEEDED THAT FIGURE. U.S. SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT PRESENT AND RECENT LEVELS OF FISHING DO NOT RESULT IN OVERFISHING.

4. EC INTEREST IN COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENT MAKES A GREAT DEAL OF SENSE IN SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT TERMS, SINCE SHRIMP OFF THE GUIANAS AND BRAZIL IS ESSENTIALLY ONE STOCK, ACCORDING TO U.S. SCIENTISTS. DEPT. WILLING TO PUSH THIS PROPOSAL WITH BRAZIL AT APPROPRIATE TIME ON A LOW KEY BASIS. (U.S.-

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BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT EXPIRES AT END OF 1977). HOWEVER, OUR DEALINGS WITH BRAZIL ON FISHERIES MATTERS INDICATE THAT EC EFFORTS TO PRESSURE BRAZIL BY PUTTING RESTRICTIONS ON THE SMALL NUMBER OF BRAZILIAN VESSELS WHICH MAY SHRIMP OFF FRENCH GUIANA IS VERY UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE. OUR

OBSERVATION IS THAT BRAZILIAN FISHERIES POLICY IS MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS THAN TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES OF THE TYPE TAKEN BY THE EC.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE EC OFFICIALS TO SEE IF EC COULD NOT RECONSIDER DECISION TO REDUCE U.S. FISHERIES IN AREA AND INSTEAD ALLOW 100-120 VESSELS TO FISH. THIS NUMBER OF ALLOWABLE VESSELS IS NECESSARY UNLESS IT IS EC INTENTION TO SERIOUSLY RESTRICT U.S. FISHERIES, AND WE HAD UNDERSTOOD, THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, IT WAS EC INTENTION TO ALLOW U.S. SHRIMP-
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ING TO CONTINUE AT ESSENTIALLY TRADITIONAL LEVELS DURING 1977.

IF EC IS ADAMANT ABOUT RESTRICTING US SHRIMP VESSELS TO 65 OFF FRENCH GUIANA, EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF EC LIMITING NUMBER OF US VESSELS QUOTE PRESENT AT ANY ONE TIME UNQUOTE IN LIEU OF RESTRICTION ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSES ISSUED. LIMIT ON NUMBER OF U.S. VESSELS ACTUALLY FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA, TOGETHER WITH LIMIT ON U.S. CATCH LEVEL (I.E., 1975 CATCH), AND INSPECTION OF U.S. VESSELS BY FRENCH ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO SATISFY EC AND ACCOMMODATE NEEDS OF US SHRIMP FLEET. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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